

REMEMDER • CRAIG • LOUGHRIDGE

DEADLY CLASS™



1988

#13



The Story So Far...

When homeless orphan Marcus Lopez was asked to join Kings Dominion Atelier of the Deadly Arts, a shadowy school specializing in training the next generation of the world's deadliest assassins, he figured he had nothing left to lose. He was wrong.

A secret love affair with his classmate Maria turned sour when her boyfriend Chico, son of the most violent cartel boss in Mexico, discovered their tryst and came baying for blood.

Maria intervened and killed Chico, to protect Marcus and also finally avenge her family, who were murdered by Chico's cartel when she was a child.

Marcus nonetheless drifted away from the girl who loved and had killed for him, and was drawn to the dark charms of another classmate, Saya, the mysterious girl who'd indoctrinated him into the school in the first place.

When Maria confronted Marcus about his infidelity, they were brutally interrupted. Chico's father, El Alma del Diablo has come to claim vengeance, and he's brought his own assassins, The Unholy Trinity.

Marcus and Maria ran for their lives, but they were no match against these hardened killers. Maria was taken away while Marcus was unceremoniously dumped off a bridge, to fall to his death...

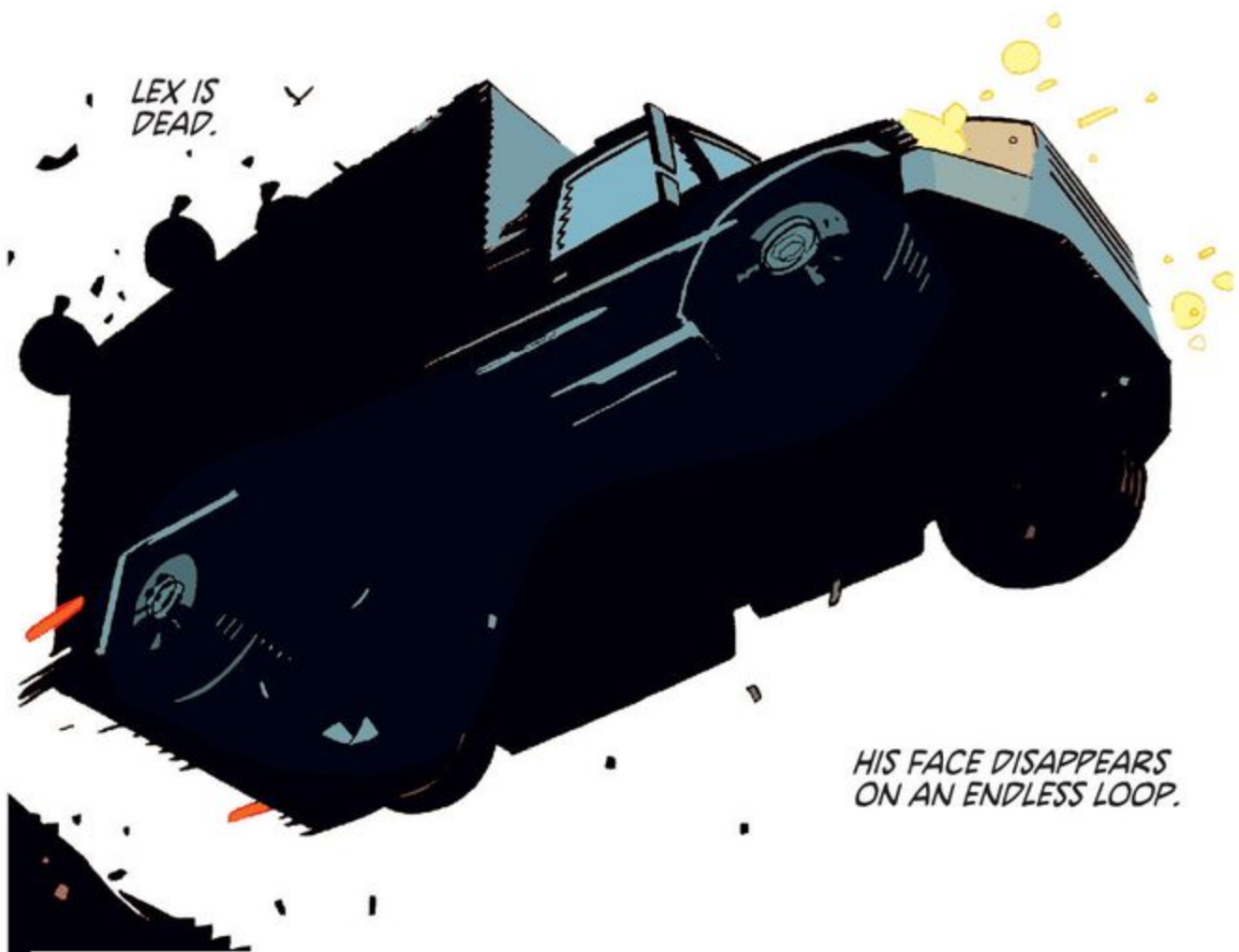
DEADLY CLASS created by Rick Remender & Wes Craig

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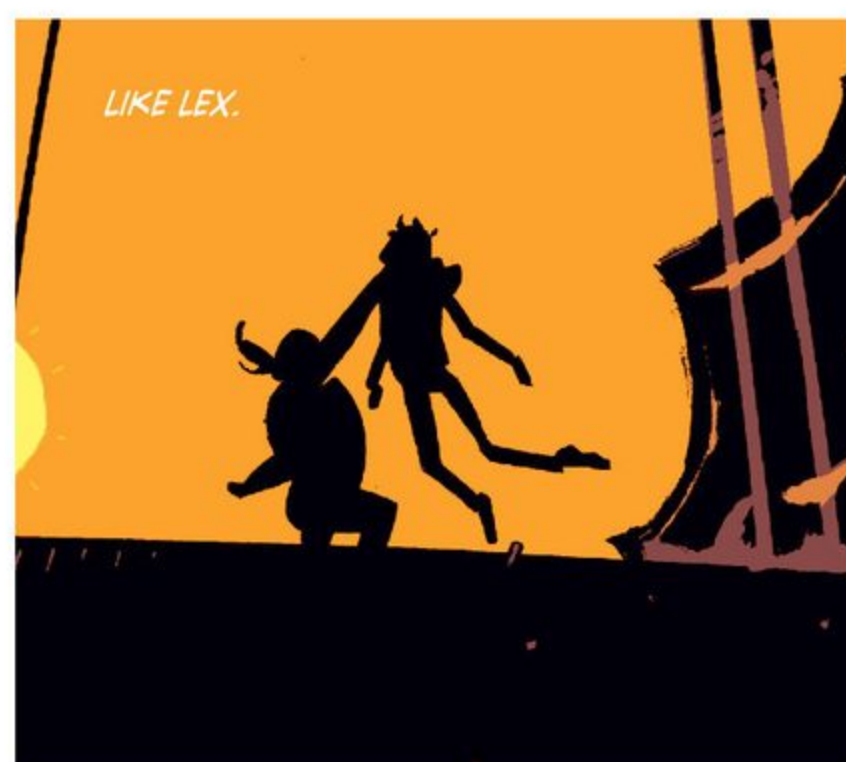
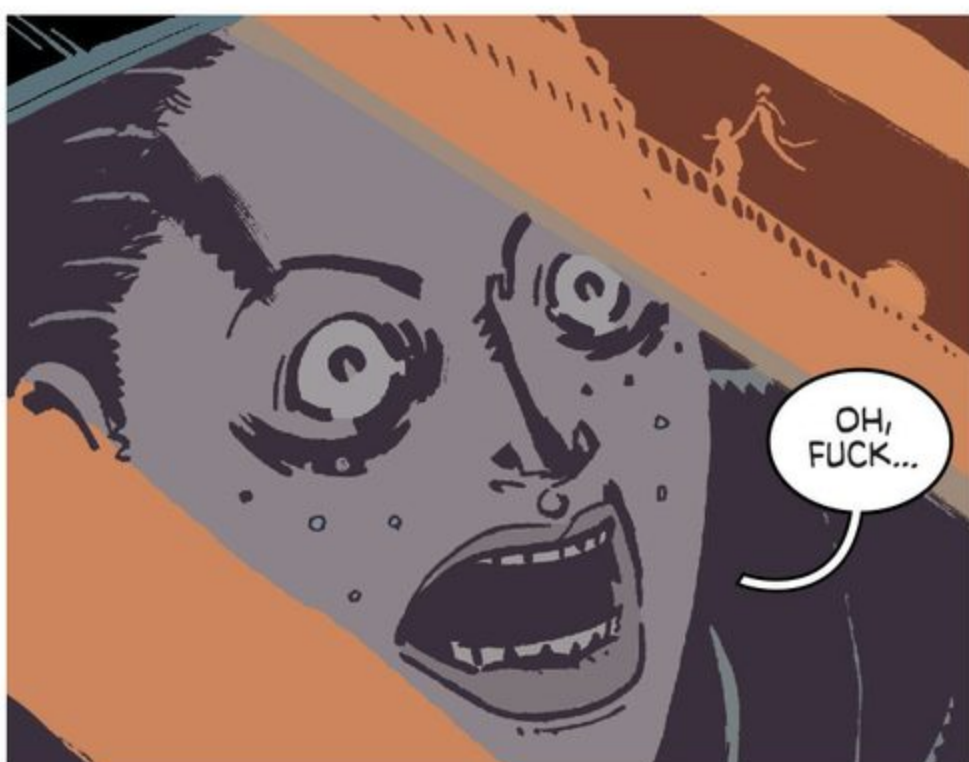




HE DIES OVER AND OVER.
BECAUSE I FUCKED UP.
BECAUSE THOSE CARTEL FUCKERS
GHOSTED ME.
IF I CAN'T FIND THEM--IF I CAN'T
HELP MY FRIENDS--MARCUS AND
MARIA ARE NEXT.



SHADOWS MOVING--FIGHTING--
I'M TOO LATE.
DIDN'T FIND THEM IN TIME.
FAILED AGAIN.



IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ME.
DEAD IN SOME ALLEY.
MY FACE GONE.



AND IF LEX HADN'T
TURNED THAT CORNER--

--IT WOULD HAVE BEEN.
IT **SHOULD** HAVE BEEN.

THIS IS NEVER
GONNA WORK.



BUT IF I DON'T TRY, HE'S DONE.







DEADLY CLASSES

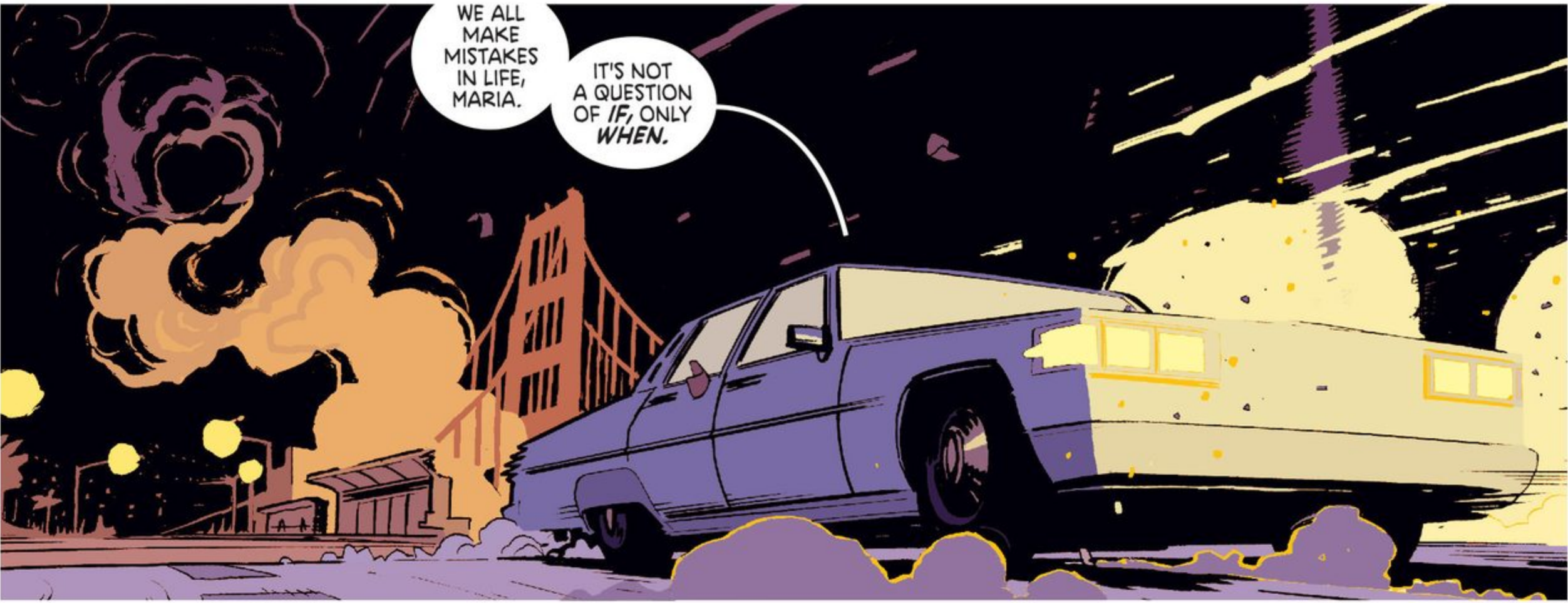
RICK REMENDER
writer-co-creators-artist

WES CRAIG

LEE LOUGHRIDGE
colorist

RUS WOOTON
letterer

SEBASTIAN GIRNER
editor



WE ALL
MAKE
MISTAKES
IN LIFE,
MARIA.

IT'S NOT
A QUESTION
OF *IF*, ONLY
WHEN.



SO THE
QUESTION
BECOMES THE
DEGREE OF THE
PUNISHMENT
SHOULD WE BE
CAUGHT.

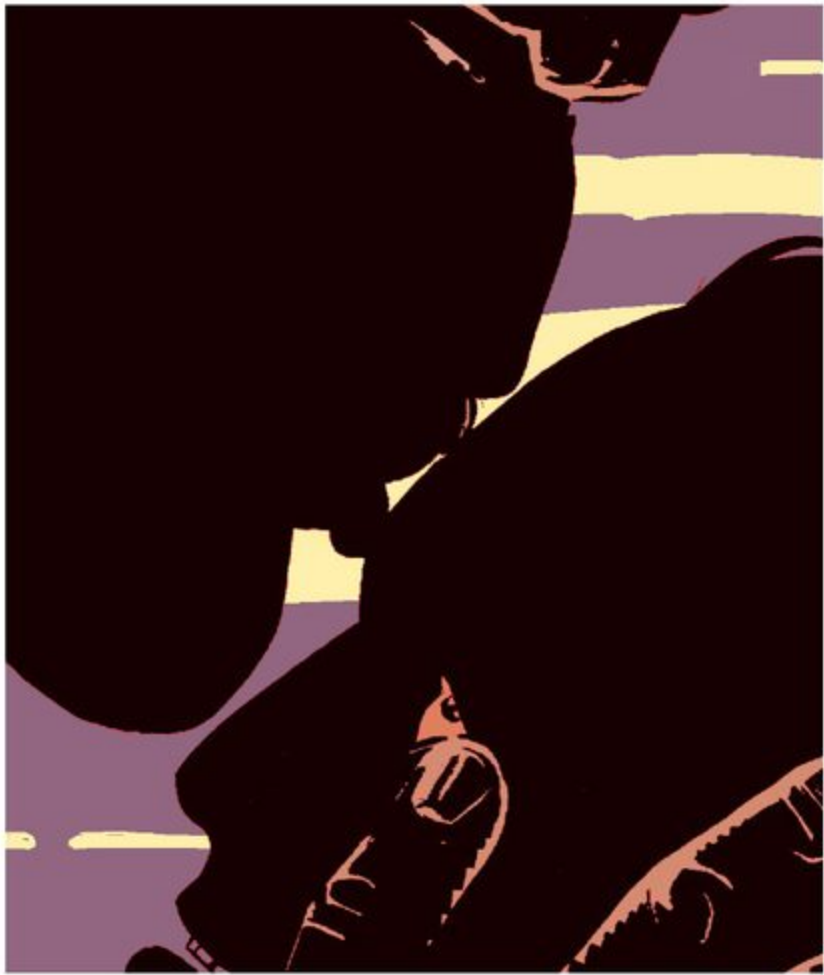
AND YOU,
MY DEAR,
HAVE BEEN
CAUGHT.



IT WAS THE DAY I
CAUGHT YOUR
THIEVING FATHER
THAT CHICO STAYED MY
HAND FROM SENDING
YOU TO HELL WITH THE
REST OF YOUR FOUL
RELATIONS.

MY
SWEET
BOY.

HE
SHOWED
YOU
MERCY.



THIS IS
HOW YOU
REWARD
HIM.



"AN EYE
FOR AN EYE
THEY," SAY.



BUT YOU
HAVE TAKEN
MY *SON*.



IF I WERE TO **MERELY** SEVER YOUR HEAD, IT WOULD BE OVER **SO** QUICKLY FOR YOU.

WHERE MY PAIN CONTINUES ON FOR **ALL** MY DAYS.



SO WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO INSTEAD IS STRIP AWAY EVERY BIT OF YOU.

SLOWLY.

PIECE BY PIECE.



IT'S GOING TO TAKE **YEARS**, MARIA.

YOU, WHOM I RAISED AS MY OWN DAUGHTER.



YOU WILL SUFFER WHENEVER I SUFFER.

WHENEVER THE SLIGHTEST TINGE OF GRIEF WASHES OVER ME--



--I WILL RELEASE IT UPON YOU.



YOU MISUNDERSTAND, "FATHER."

YOU HAVEN'T CAPTURED **ME**--





COJEME...

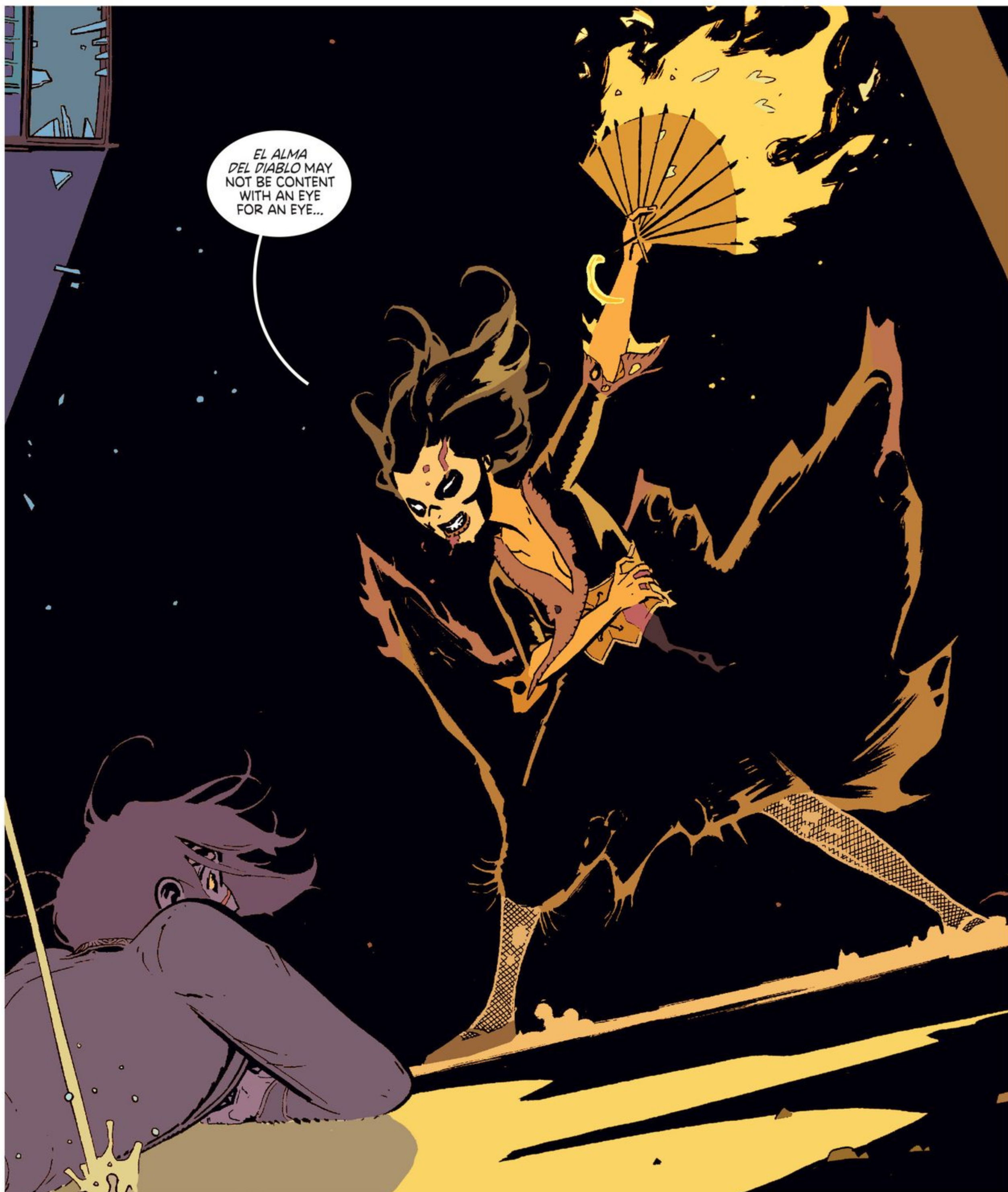


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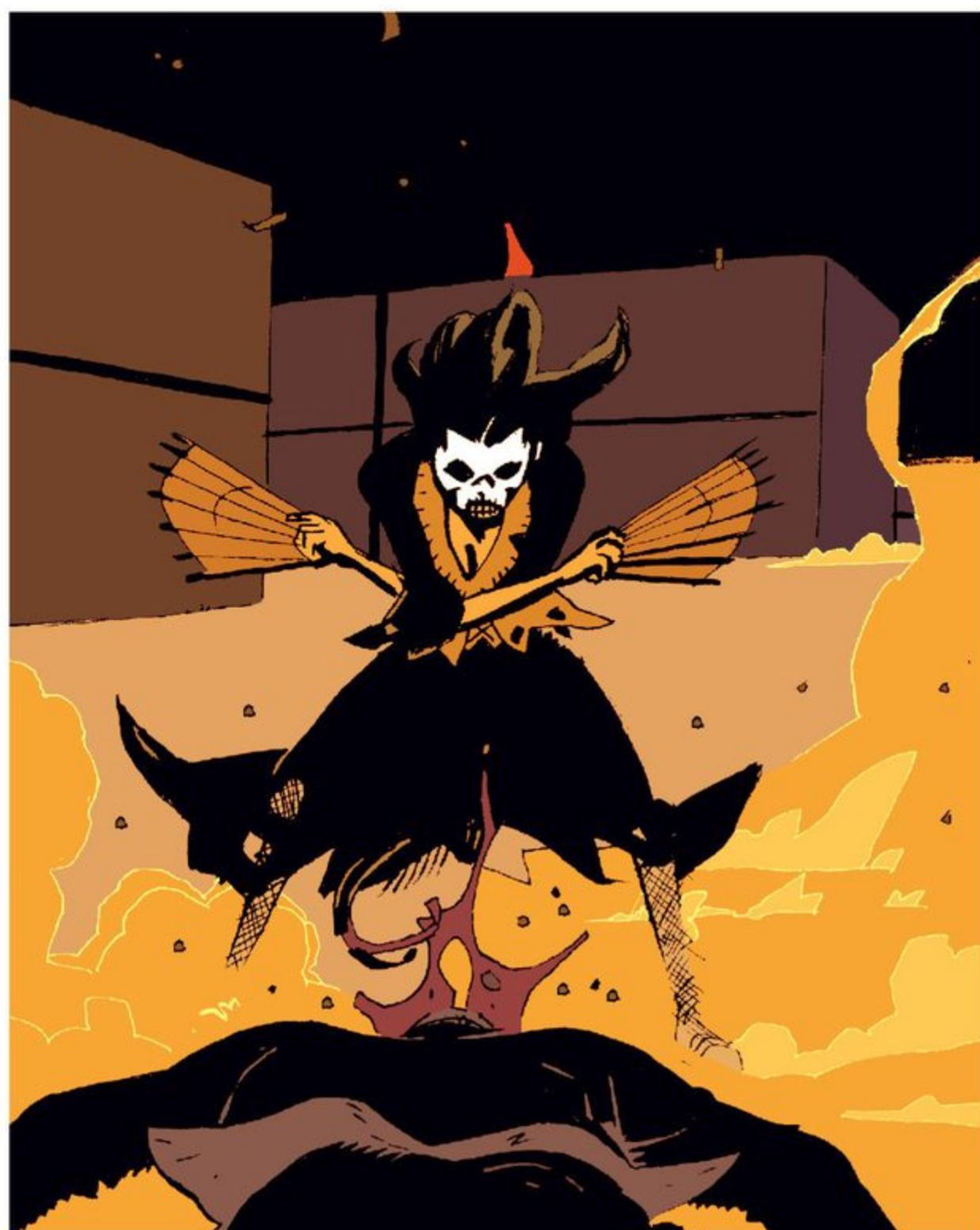
HIJO DE
PUTA...

YOU
BURNED MY
PREGNANT
MOTHER
ALIVE.







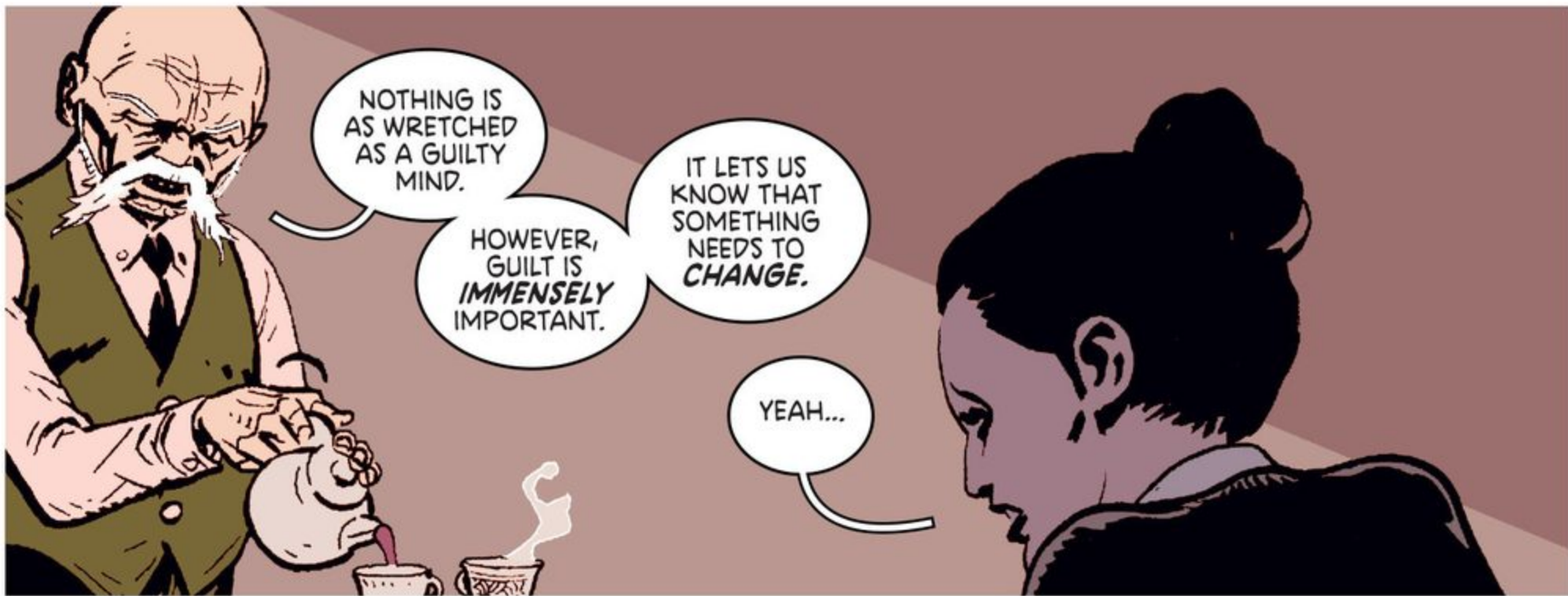




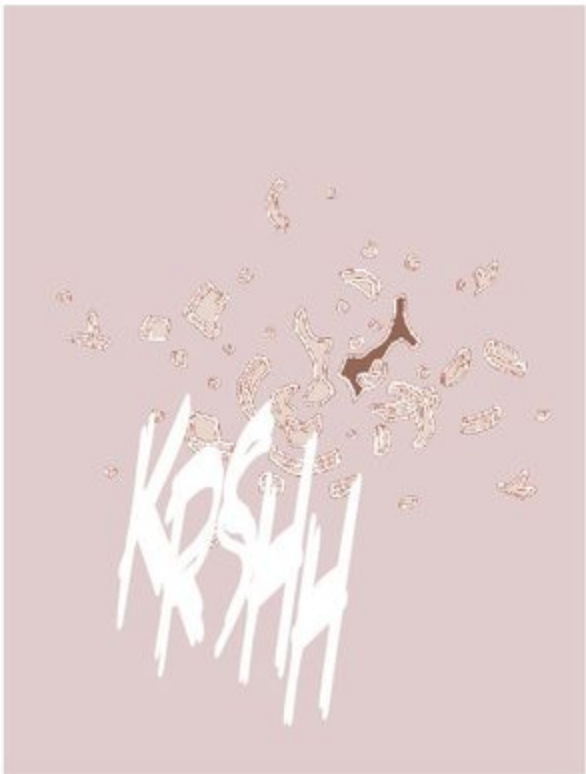






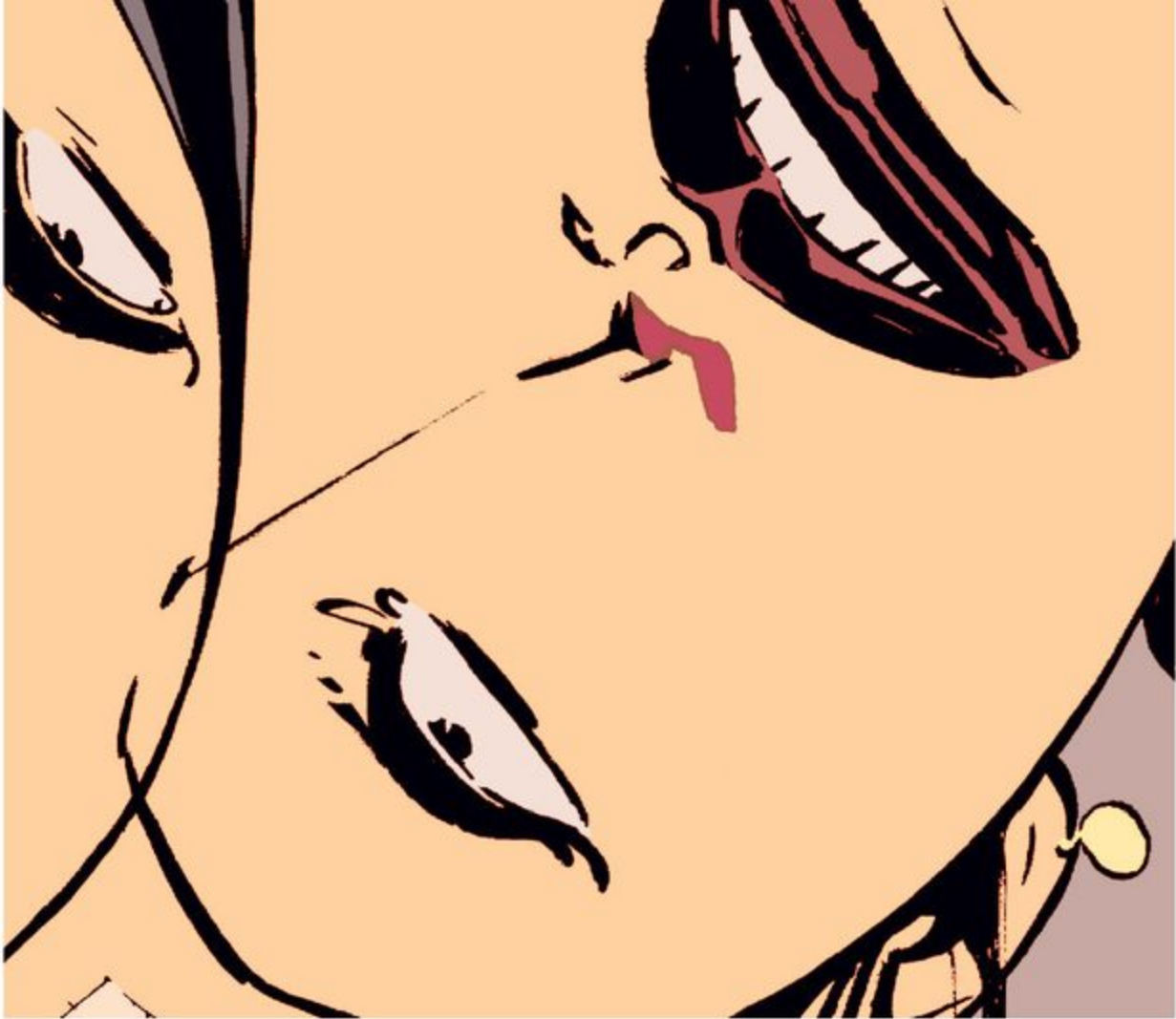






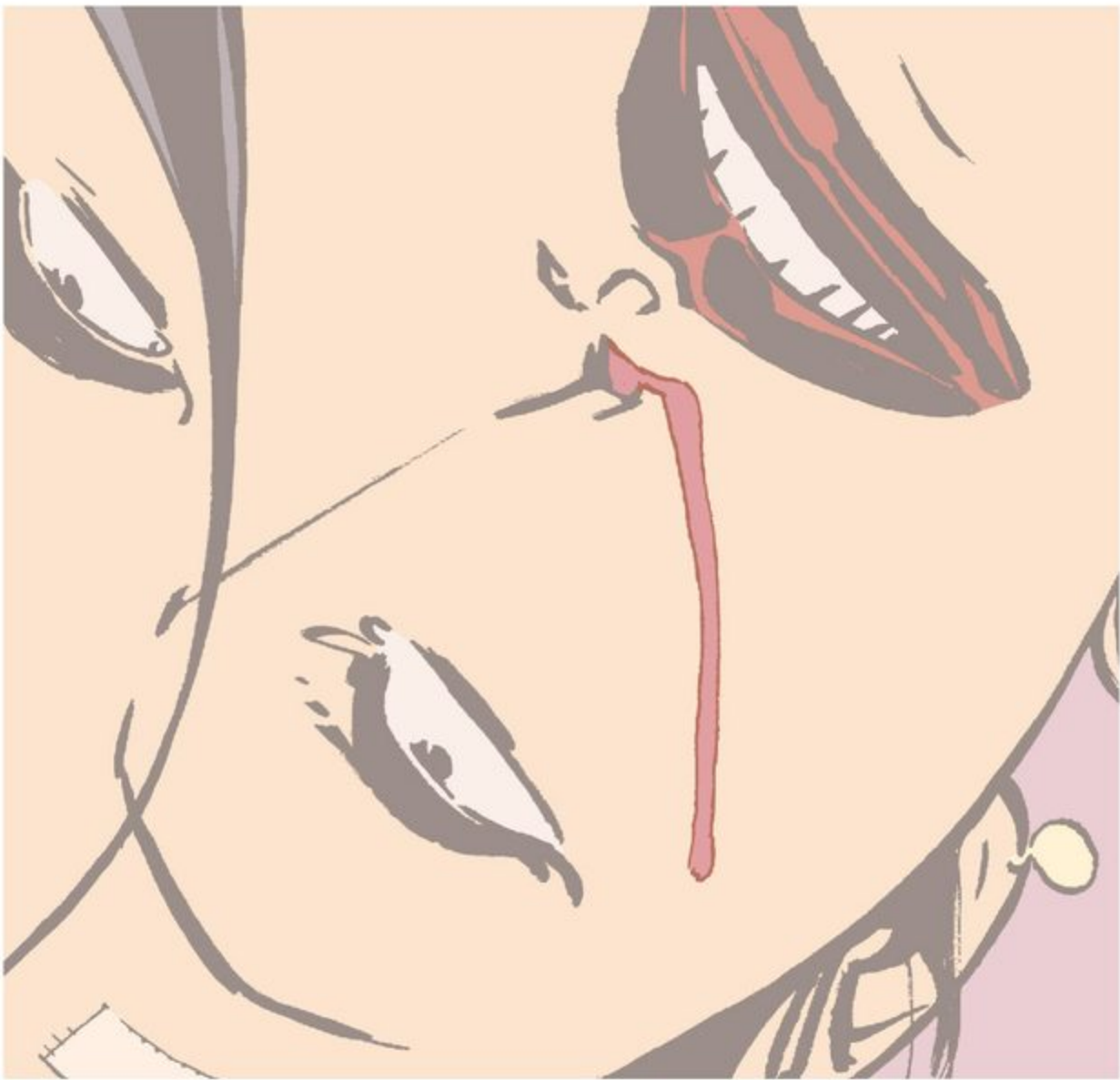
"YOU DID NOT COVER
YOUR TRACKS, MARIA.

"EARNED
A FAILING
MARK.



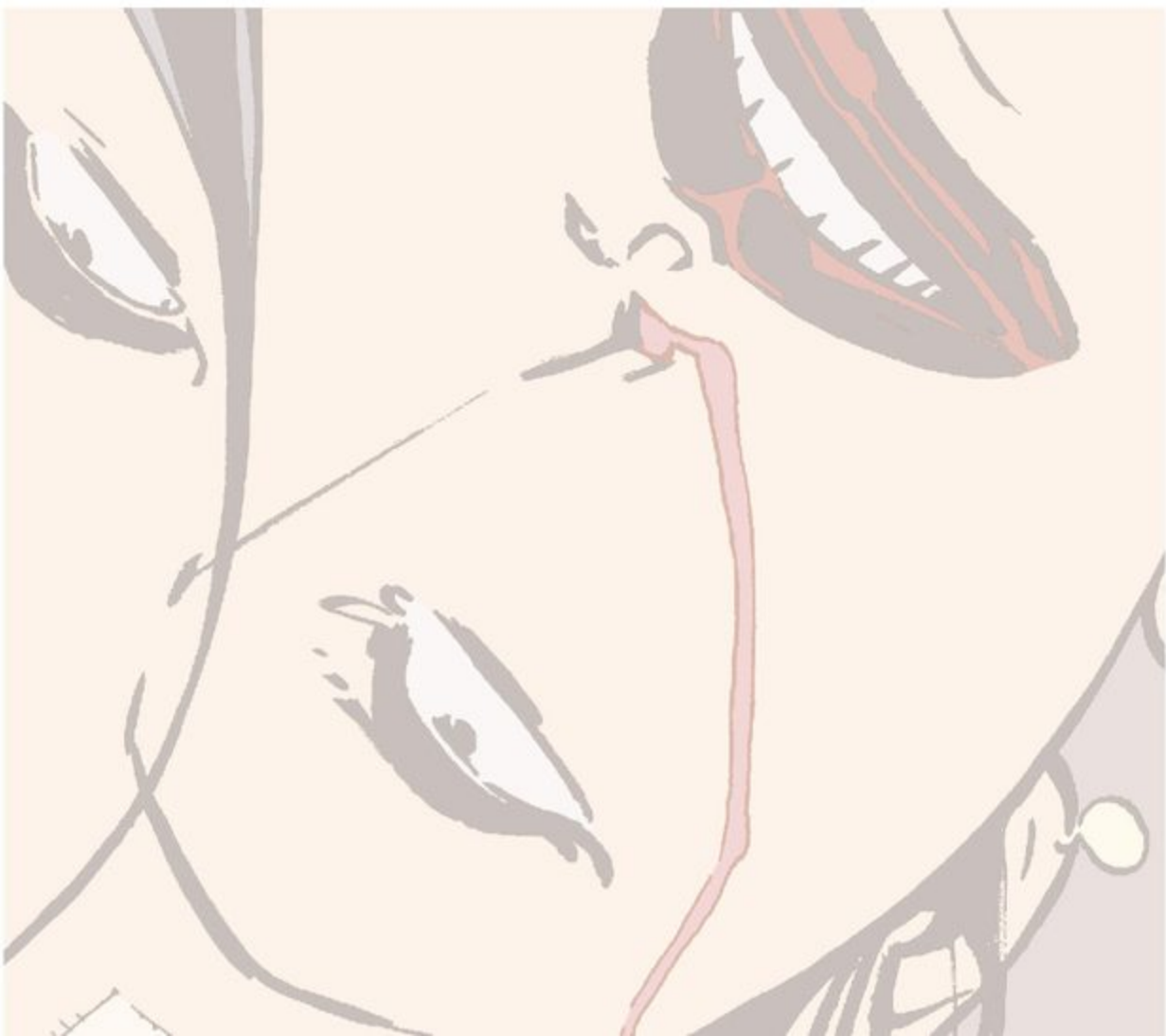
"NOT ONLY IN CHICO'S
EXECUTION METHOD--
BUT HIS *DISPOSAL*.

"YOU AND YOUR
CLASSMATES HAVE
YET TO TAKE
MY THREATS
SERIOUSLY.



"BUT I ASSURE
YOU, THEY ARE
QUITE GRAVE.

"UNFORTUNATELY
FOR YOU, MARIA..."



"...THAT THIS LESSON YOU LEARNED FAR TOO LATE."



IS IT
DONE?

YES.

AND
WHAT OF THE
OTHERS?

FEAR NOT,
AMANTE
JAE.

AS
YOU CAN
SEE...



...I JUSTLY
DISCIPLINE
MY WAYWARD
STUDENTS.



DEAD LETTER OFFICE

Send comments and questions to
[WriteRemender@gmail.com!](mailto:WriteRemender@gmail.com)
Mark letters "OK to print".

RR - Let's take a moment and let that sink in.

Okay.

Here's a playlist fitting for this issue:

- The Replacements, *Alex Chilton*
- The Jesus & Mary Chain, *Just Like Honey*
- X, *Los Angeles*
- T.S.O.L., *World War III*
- Angry Samoans - *Ballad of Jerry Curlan*
- The Dickies, *Eve of Destruction*
- The Psychedelic Furs, *Love My Way*
- Gary Numan, *Down in the Park*
- XTC, *Dear God*
- A Flock of Seagulls, *Space Age Love Song*
- Sisters of Mercy, *This Corrosion*
- Joy Division, *Something Must Break*
- Depeche Mode, *Black Celebration*
- The Cure, *Primary*

Let's do some letters!

Hi, Rick and Wes!

First off, I just want to tell you both how much I appreciate all the hard work you put into this comic! Thank you so much, Rick, for signing my stuff at WonderCon. I was the one that showed you a few photos of my Saya cosplay at Long Beach Comic Con 2014. You asked me to e-mail them to you, so here ya go!

Truthfully it was my first time ever going to a comic convention, and I wanted to try cosplaying, so obviously I went as my favorite character (with clothing I could find in my closet oh ho ho ho). A few minutes stepping into the con someone recognized me! Knowing that gave me hope to raise more awareness of DEADLY CLASS.

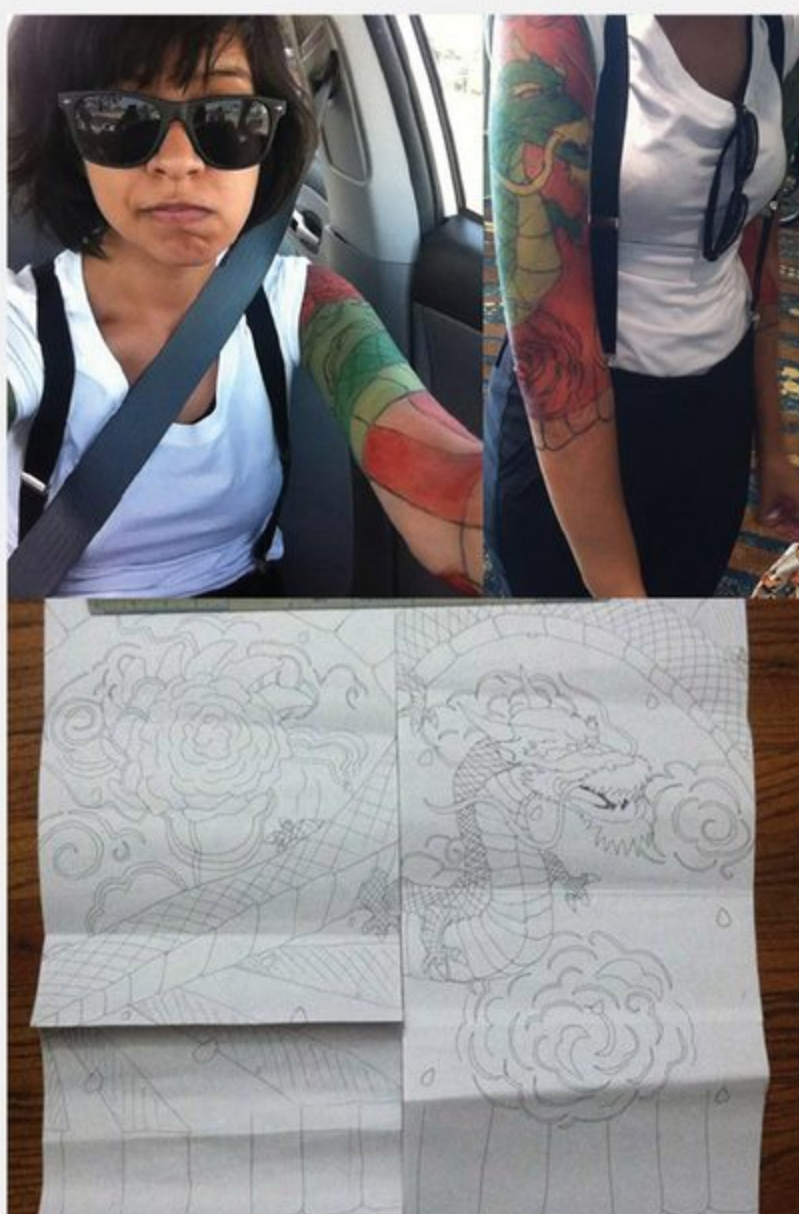
I scoured through pages of DEADLY CLASS to find a good reference shot of Saya's tattoos, but they were always either slight angles or just shots of the dragon's face! So I started to look more into tattoos and I realized that Wes has done his research. He researched what actual yakuza tattoos were! I was so impressed he took the time! He could have drawn any regular badass tattoos, but he went the extra mile for something that's never drawn attention!

That caused me to have an immense amount of admiration towards him. I actually harassed a local comic shop for *Black Hand* because now I just want to collect Wes's art and shove it in peoples' faces. Anyhow, since there was no full shot of her tattoos I had to design my own. It was a little tricky since I knew they were all over her back, down her sides, and right above her knee. It was a pain and I wanted to send an angry letter to Wes for not showing off her tattoos, BUT I just saw he released her tattoos two weeks ago! I'm so mad. It's so beautiful. I'm saving it for the next time I decide to cosplay Saya (hoping to con my friend to be Marcus oh ho ho ho). It was colored with cheap body paint from party city that stained my arms for a few days. *Oy vey.*

Keep up the good work on DEADLY CLASS! I'll always keep moving the "employee picks" towards DEADLY CLASS. :)

- Michelle

-P.S. issue #12 was telenovela level of drama.



RR - Thanks, Michelle. The effort you went to with the Saya costume is incredible. Nothing is as cool as someone digging your character enough to go to those lengths. I'm glad you followed Wes to his work on Black Hand Comics. It's such a stunning collection of beautiful short stories. Everyone who loved what Wes does here should make sure to go order a copy.

Hey Mr. Remender,

I just wanna say that I've loved the series since Day 1. I kinda stumbled on it completely by accident one day when I was at my local comics shop and couldn't really find anything good.

But then I saw that insanely rad cover art Mr. Craig did for the first issue and asked the clerk if this "DEADLY CLASS" was book any good, to which she replied, "DUDE, THAT SHIT ROCKS SO HARD."

So I threw down the \$3.50, drove home, cracked it open, had my mind splattered on the adjacent wall, and I've been loyal little Dead Head ever since (yeah I know that's a Grateful Dead thing but it sounds kinda fitting/ ironic since every member of the gang hates them). I just wanna say that this has become one of my top three favorite comics of all time and you've become one of my favorite writers, as well as a big inspiration to me as a writer. I mean this book has everything I love: an amazing story, fantastic art, and a shit ton of violence, and the 1980s. So yeah, this pretty much my ideal comic.

But on top of that, despite the fact that they're all a bunch of broken, murderous nutcases, every member of the main cast is incredibly relatable. Not only can I see aspects of most of my friends in the gang, I can see myself in them too. I really identify with Marcus since I also used to get moved around a lot, never really fit in, and didn't really have a legitimate circle of close friends until my mid to late teens. As you could imagine that can get pretty tough for a kid at times, but it's those friendships I've made and the times we've shared that's helped me trudge through the sheer horrors of public education and keep moving forward. And having this super kick-ass character you've concocted who's kinda going through what I am to relate to seriously means a hell of a lot to a guy like me who's still trying to find out what he wants out of life and more and more about who he really is each and every day, so honestly and truly, thank you. Now, onto my stupid questions.

So since the series itself is SUPER cinematic I've been wondering, are there any particular movies that have influenced the story, characters, certain arcs, themes, you as a writer, etc., etc. And also how would you feel if DEADLY CLASS got a big screen adaptation? And if you had to pick, what would be the main gang's favorite movies? (Yeah, in case you couldn't tell I'm going for a film major in college next year)

And finally, I just wanna say thanks again for gracing this planet with quite possibly one of the best stories to ever be put on a page and for being such a huge inspiration to so many of us.

Thanks,
Conor Armstrong

RR - I thought about this and really the series is a mix of a number of other ideas I had, none of them inspired by much of anything other than my misadventures as a youth. If the story were to be translated it would be important to me to see the honest ugliness of teenage existence captured. The thing we want the book to do above all else is to feel honest. In between the big fights and the violence, the human component needs to ring true, always attempting to capture both the universal and the niche, more unique aspects of the age.

That's it for this month. Pretty shitty way to say goodbye, I get it. Next month we jump forward a bit in time to catch up with the crew after the terrible mess they made these past few issues.

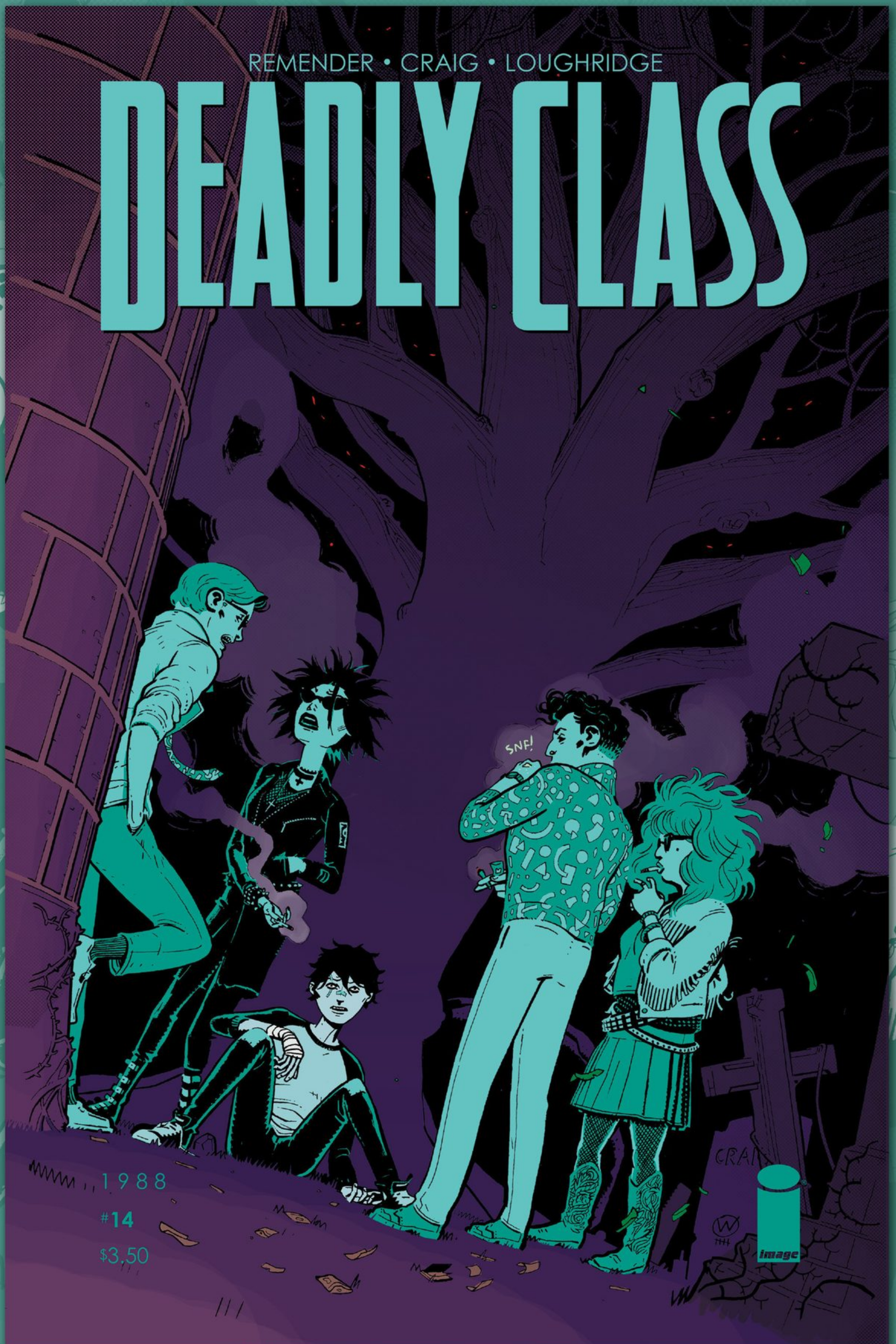
Until then we have a preview of my favorite new comic, AIRBOY by James Robinson and Greg Hinkle.

- Rick

NEXT ISSUE

REMENDER • CRAIG • LOUGHRIDGE

DEADLY CLASS



1988

#14

\$3.50



JAMES ROBINSON & GREG HINKLE

AIRBOY™



SNEAK PREVIEW



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...THIS
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WILL NOT
STAND!



continues in AIRBOY #1
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